



SYCAMORE RIDGE

PTA Meeting 09/10/2026

Attendance: Kate Kim, Kathy O'Neill, Jenny Pierson, Elham Zamanidoost, Sandy Tanaka, Bianca Plotkin, Heather Wesselo, Sara Lake, Ana Pons, Britta Loesel, Joe Carley, Jill Maher, Caroline Bailey, Jody Folk, Maryna Golavig, Natalia Herasymenko, Chino Mannikantha, Yenitzeth Haro, Ramla Omer, Priya Merrill, Nicole, JA Cauley, Karen

Location: MUR - online option

Welcome / Call to Order

- Kate welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

The corporate matching looks good so far and more money is coming in.

Approval

- Approval of Checks #3840-3851. Motion by Sara seconded by Elham, and vote: all in favor. Motion passed.
- Approval for August Checks . Motion by Priya, seconded by Britta, and vote: all in favor. Motion passed.
- Approval of August Minutes: Motion by Sara, seconded by Bianca, and vote: all in favor. Motion passed.
- Approval for 26/27 PTA Budget: Motion by Elham, seconded by Jody, and vote: all in favor. Motion passed
- Approval to add Kathy O'Neill to the bank account as financial secretary and remove Priya Merrill: Motion by Jody, seconded by Ana, and vote: all in favor. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

- **Annual Giving Campaign**
 - At \$29,000 in donations as of today. The AGC is scheduled to end on September 27, 2026 but will likely be extended for an additional week.

- **Stallion Sprinters**
 - Stallion Sprinters will be starting in September on Mondays and Fridays.
 - Parent Joe Carley volunteered to help with Stallion Sprinters

- **Drama Club**
 - There are 35 kids total, 5 are on Scholarship
 - Students were charged \$400 to join drama club (\$350 for siblings), if they are experiencing financial hardship they had the opportunity to reach out to the PTA for a scholarship. The PTA is providing 5 scholarships this year for the drama club.

- **Red Ribbon Week**
 - Britta shared that this year's theme will be "Choices Make us Shine" she is looking at decorations that include the sun.
 - Jimbos will be providing apples again this year
 - The schedule will be similar to last year
 - Britta suggested the school clubs be asked to get involved with the theme, for example origami club could make origami suns.

- **Reflections Art Program**
 - Looking for a parent lead- Chino volunteered from the crowd
 - Ms. Sutton will help with collecting submissions for the contest and advertise the contest in her classes.

- **Reimbursement Update**
 - Kate Kim reminded PTA members that they do not need to spend their own money to supplement the activities they are involved in.
 - The PTA provides reimbursement for items purchased for events/activities up to the amount in the budget. If additional funds are needed please reach out to discuss this with the PTA
 - Individual parents do not need to provide additional donations for events beyond their time and expertise. The PTA also wants to make sure that the budget for

what is spent on each event is accurate for future committee chairs and budget decisions.

- **STAR Reading Program**

- Sandy will reach out to 1st-3rd grade teachers to get a list of students recommended for additional reading time.
- Volunteers are need for the program, minimum time commitment of 30 minutes per week October- May, day of the week and exact time flexible
- Advertisement for volunteers will go out in PTA newsletter and the Stallion Stomp in the coming weeks

Principal's Update

- **STEAM+ Offerings - Presentation by Ms.Pierson**

- PTA funds are used directly for Sycamore Ridge and the PTA activities/events. DMSEF is a parent supported foundation that raises money to support STEAM+ teachers
- All the STEAM+ teachers at Sycamore Ridge returned from last year
- 6th grade receives Spanish instruction but it is not considered part of STEAM+
- STEAM+ teachers are credentialed in their subject area
- Ms.Pierson showed a chart illustrating which grades get which STEAM+ classes and when. For example 5th and 6th grade alternate between music and art, each for half the year.

- **Counselor Presentation - Mrs.Sanford**

- Mrs.Sanford is new to our school this year, she has previous experience working at an elementary school in Chula Vista.
- Counselor Scope- social emotional, post secondary, academics
- Mrs.Sanford may meet with students individually or in small groups.
- She provides counselor lessons and helps support schoolwide initiatives
- Counselor Mailbox available to students to submit their concerns at any time
- District policy requires parent permission after 3 visits for the same concern
- DMUSD has partnered with Care Solace to offer free and confidential access to mental health related services for students and family members.
- More information about Care Solace will be included in the Stallion Stomp

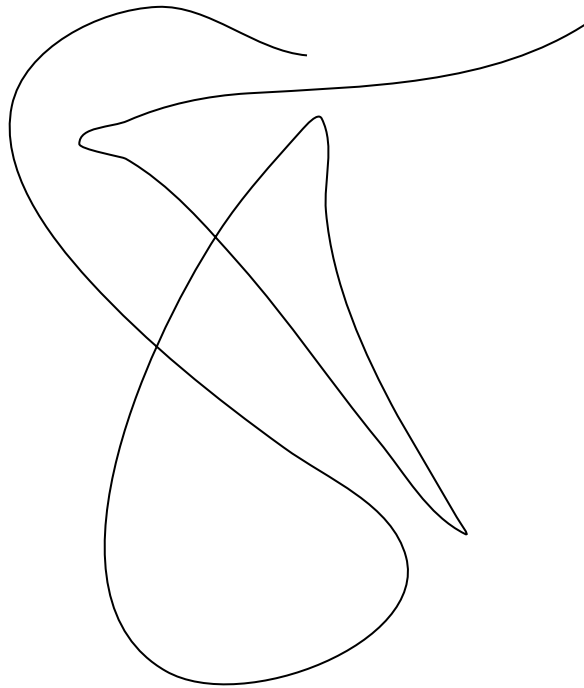
8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 am.

The next PTA Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th at Sycamore Ridge.

Sandy Tanaka

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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a 'T' and a 'N'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the 'S' and 'T' being the most prominent letters.